

**DELINEATION OF PRIVILEGES - SURGERY**

For use of this form, see AR 40-68; the proponent agency is OTSG  
(DA Form 5440A-R Must be Completed and Attached to this Form)

REQUESTED BY

DATE

Eligibility to perform hospital surgical procedures must be based on an individual's education, training, and demonstrated competency. Surgical privileges are divided into four major categories:

**Category I.** Privileges in this category are for uncomplicated surgical illness or problems which present no serious threat to life. When doubt exists as to the diagnosis or in cases in which improvement from treatment is not soon apparent, consultation will be sought.

Category I privileges may be granted to physicians without formal surgical training based on documented evidence that such privileges have been previously and successfully exercised.

Examples:

Excision of cyst	Removal of foreign body by speculum, forceps, or superficial incision
Incision and draining of abscess	Suture of laceration ( <i>simple</i> )
Muscle biopsy	Excision biopsy of skin or subcutaneous tumor
Evacuation of thrombosed hemorrhoid	Cut down, intravenous or intra-arterial
Other minor conditions and procedures of similar scope and complexity as the above in the surgical specialties.	

**Category II.** Privileges in this category include those in Category I plus specific surgical conditions and procedures of increased scope and complexity and that may require general or conductive anesthesia, but which do not constitute an immediate or serious threat to life.

Practitioners with these privileges are expected to request consultation where expected improvement is not soon apparent and when specialized therapeutic or diagnostic techniques are indicated.

Category II privileges may be granted to those practitioners who have satisfactorily completed at least one year post-internship formal training in surgery or whose skills have been gained and maintained through experience.

Examples:

Breast biopsy	Varicose vein ligation ( <i>superficial</i> )
Hemorrhoidectomy	Pilonidal cyst excision/marsupialization
Drainage, deep ischio-rectal abscess	Split thickness skin graft, small areas
Simple closed fracture management	Treatment of closed dislocations
Other specific privileges similar to the above in scope and complexity.	

**Category III.** Privileges in this category include those in Categories I and II plus those associated with complex or severe illness or general surgical problems and those with immediate or serious threat to life. Physicians with these privileges may act as consultants to others and may, in turn, be expected to request consultation when:

a. The diagnosis and/or management remains in doubt over an unduly long period of time, especially in the presence of a life-threatening illness.

b. Unexpected complications arise which are outside this level of competence.

c. Specialized treatments or procedures are contemplated with which they are not familiar.

Category III practitioners are expected to have training and/or experience and competence on a level commensurate with that provided by specialty training and (*except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Credentials Committee*) sufficient to attain eligibility for board certification.

Examples:

Appendectomy	Hernia repair ( <i>inguinal, umbilical</i> )
Exploratory laparotomy	Ligation ( <i>high</i> ) stripping of varicose veins
Gastic and bowel resection	Wide excision and graft for malignant skin tumor
Biliary tract surgery	Pancreas and spleen surgery
Abdominoperineal resection	Diaphragmatic hernia
Lymph node dissection	Surgery of the adrenal glands
Thyroidectomy	Sympathectomy
Mastectomy, simple and radical	Cysts and tumors of neck, including salivary glands
Other specific privileges similar to the above in scope and complexity.	

**Category IV.** Privileges in this category include those in Category I, II, and III to the extent that qualification criteria are met, plus those associated with illnesses and surgical problems requiring an unusual degree of expertise and competence. Practitioners with these privileges have the highest level of competence within a given field and are qualified to act as consultants and should, in turn, request consultation from within or from outside the hospital staff whenever needed.

Practitioners with these privileges are expected to have training and experience considered appropriate for a subspecialist and (*except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Credential Committee*), sufficient to attain eligibility for subspecialty board certification.

Examples: Surgical subspecialties.

TO PERFORM SURGERY	TO ASSIST AT SURGERY	PRIVILEGES	RECOMMENDATIONS BY DEPT/SVS CHIEF			
			APPRD. WITHOUT LIMITATION	QUAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED	MAY ASSIST ONLY	NOT APPRD
		a. General surgery				
		b. Cardiac surgery				
		c. Orthopedics				
		d. Otolaryngology				
		e. Ophthalmology				
		f. Neurosurgery				
		g. Plastic surgery				
		h. Thoracic surgery				
		i. Urology				
		j. Vascular surgery				

TO PERFORM SURGERY	TO ASSIST AT SURGERY	PRIVILEGES		RECOMMENDATIONS BY DEPT/SVS CHIEF			
				APPRD. WITHOUT LIMITATION	QUAL ASSISTANT REQUIRED	MAY ASSIST ONLY	NOT APPRD
		k.	Colo-rectal surgery				
		l.	<sup>1/</sup> Gastrointestinal endoscopy <i>(Specify type of endoscopic procedures(s))</i>				
		m.	<sup>2/</sup> Diagnostic/therapeutic radiology <i>(Specify)</i>				
		Other <i>(Specify)</i>					
<b>Category Requested:</b>							
	Category I						
<b>Exceptions <i>(Recommended by Department Chief)</i></b>							
<b>Additional Privileges <i>(Specify)</i></b>							
<b>Category II</b>							
<b>Exceptions <i>(Recommended by Department Chief)</i></b>							
<b>Additional Privileges <i>(Specify)</i></b>							
<b>Category III</b>							
<b>Exceptions <i>(Recommended by Department Chief)</i></b>							
<b>Additional Privileges <i>(Specify)</i></b>							
<b>Category IV</b>							
<b>Exceptions <i>(Recommended by Department Chief)</i></b>							
<b>Additional Privileges <i>(Specify)</i></b>							

<sup>1/</sup> Documented and/or demonstrated competence is necessary.

<sup>2/</sup> Requires special qualifications of training and experience in equipment use and in the interpretation of results.